

Special Edition



Restructuring

Volume 6 Number 7

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA • JUNEAU

November 7, 1986



Whalesong



UAJ HIT HARD BY PLAN

By JOLIE SASSEVILLE
Whalesong Editor

A delegation of student leaders from the University of Alaska-Juneau had nearly front-row seats at the Oct. 31 forum in Anchorage where Donald O'Dowd presented his plan for a restructured University system.

O'Dowd, president of the UA system, offered the product of several months' intensive review to a standing-room only crowd and a statewide tele-

conference audience.

Michael Smith, president of the United Students of the University of Alaska-Juneau (USUAJ), attended the forum and was not pleased with the way UAJ fared in the overall plan.

"I haven't seen any economic justification for what they have proposed and I don't believe there is any. I want to see some real figures that show where there will be savings," Smith said after hearing the news.

The section of the plan which

addresses changes at UAJ and the community colleges in Southeast Alaska is as follows:

The proposal for the University of Alaska-Juneau is as follows:

"I recommend that the University of Alaska-Juneau, be restructured as an undergraduate college. Its responsibilities would be to offer the bachelor's degree, the associate's degree, and developmental courses as needed.

"The new college at Juneau

would not offer graduate programs," O'Dowd's plan continued, "to the extent these are needed in Juneau, they would be provided by extensions from the larger and more varied faculties from Anchorage or Fairbanks.

"The undergraduate college at Juneau would not offer vocational/technical programs, but would coordinate the offering of these programs from elsewhere in the University, as I will describe later.

"The University of Alaska College at Juneau would seek to establish a 15 to 1 student/faculty ratio for its undergraduate programs, as compared with its current ratio of 10 to 1.

"Finally, the Juneau campus would provide an array of educational programs to Ketchikan and Sitka in a pattern that is described below.

"These proposed changes would develop a smaller, but

Continued on page 4

Convocation: Questions raised

By CARYN GOOD
Whalesong Staff Reporter

Will Bill Smoker have to move his salmon aquaculture research project to Fairbanks?

This and other questions attracted more than 200 faculty, staff, and students to the Hendrickson little theater for the convocation held last Friday to prepare responses to President Donald O'Dowd's reorganization plan.

Jim Bradley, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council, began by encouraging attendance at the Monday evening hearing and voiced the strong support of the Juneau community. "The Juneau people are really appreciative of UAJ's plight and are anxious to do something and put their shoulders to the wheel," he said.

According to Bradley, the court reporters are donating their services to transcribe the testimony given at the Monday forum, the Juneau Empire is donating advertising space, Rudy Ripley of Commercial Art is donating 100 "Save Our Whales" placards, and the Assembly plans to pass a resolution and adjourn early and attend the forum as a body.

He said that UAJ has received "a bit of a body blow" but suggested that reorganization may make the university stronger and may help.

Interim Chancellor John Visser then took the floor and began by reading the text of O'Dowd's proposals referring to UAJ (see excerpt, page 1).

In explanation, Visser said
Continued on page 4



Visser responds to questions at convocation

Frank Wilson/Whalesong

Chancellor Addresses Reorganization

By JOLIE SASSEVILLE
Whalesong Editor

After listening to Donald O'Dowd's plan for restructuring and hearing from students, faculty, staff and community members in the hours and days that followed, Interim Chancellor John Visser addressed the issues arising from the plan.

"To most objective critics, such as accreditation teams, this university system needs restructuring; the layers of administration are not needed," Visser said.

Visser stressed that the plan is not complete and there are many details yet to be addressed before the plan is adopted.

"The Regents are supportive of the concept, but before they formally approve it they will look at each facet of the plan and ask the statewide assembly what kinds of savings would be realized if they take each step," he said.

The most hotly contested aspect of the plan has been the removal of UAJ's fisheries program to the Fairbanks campus.

"I'm sure a number of factors come into play in this," Visser said, "and there are some facets I can understand. One is the feeling that fisheries is part of a broader program that ultimately could lead to a Ph.D. program. If it did, it would have to rest with a university that has the authority to grant Ph.D.'s."

UAJ does not have this capability, Visser said, for many reasons. He said that because

UAJ is a relatively new institution and lacks the resources and faculty required to gain Ph.D. granting authority, it would be many years before UAJ could offer doctoral programs.

"The state can't afford to have more than one doctoral degree-offering school in the state," Visser said. The university at Fairbanks presently is authorized to grant doctoral degrees.

Among the details to be worked out before the broadly defined plan can be implemented are the practical matters of course scheduling, advertising and registration.

Under the plan, courses offered in Juneau will be administered by three different universities. UAJ will administer its own undergraduate courses, while fisheries programs will be in the control of the Fairbanks campus.

Public administration courses and vo/tech extension offerings will be administered from Anchorage.

Although the logistics involved may be confusing, Visser said, "it would no longer be our responsibility and we can't control it."

"We'll have a little of that ourselves," Visser said, "depending on how we assimilate the community colleges in Sitka and Ketchikan."

One problem Visser considered is that of course numbering at the community colleges.

"Both of those campuses have only offered lower division

courses. We will extend that and offer upper division classes as well," he said.

All three Southeast campuses, under the plan, will lose their ability to offer what Visser referred to as "hard" vo/tech classes, which are those classes involving machinery and heavy

classes might then run for shorter periods and be offered less frequently.

"Maybe they would send faculty from the Anchorage campus to teach those courses, or they might hire local part-time instructors," he said.

"They may set up some core

more classes, the number of faculty could be reduced, or the number of students in classes could be raised.

"We will carefully scrutinize course offerings to hit that target figure," Visser said. "We will need at least two years to adjust and comply."

As a result of this restructuring and all of its ramifications, Visser said that the recently prepared six-year plan of course offerings system-wide will probably have to be re-written.

Visser responded to concerns of students that the recent public forum was not productive and that the restructuring was already set in the minds of the statewide administration as a way to eventually dismantle UAJ.

"If I thought this restructuring was just a political move, I would have packed my bags and walked out the door," Visser said.

"I can't tell exactly what the impact of that (forum) will be," he said, "I hope it will cause them to reconsider some of the plans."

"It can't help but influence them," Visser continued, referring to the Board of Regents, who must ultimately adopt the proposed plan before it can be implemented.

"This is not a final plan. It needs to be processed and it needs Regents approval," he said.

"I think they (the regents) will carefully consider what was said at the public forum," the chancellor concluded, "and I think they probably will make modifications."



Frank Wilson/Whalesong

Visser, Adams listen as restructuring plan announced

equipment. The university in Southeast will retain its ability to offer "soft" vo/tech courses, such as business practices, computer classes, and others that can be offered within the context of a four-year liberal arts university, according to Visser.

Visser said the possibility remains that the Anchorage administrative unit may choose to offer some of the "hard" vo/tech classes currently available in Juneau, but that the

faculty members where there is a great demand," Visser said.

Visser also addressed the issue of increasing UAJ's student teacher ratio.

The most current figures show that there are 10.8 students per faculty member, while the goal of the restructuring plan is to bring that figure to 15 students per instructor.

Visser said there are a variety of ways to accomplish this. Each teacher could teach

Beeton: "There are more questions"

By CARYN GOOD
Whalesong Staff Reporter

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Beverly Beeton, describes President Donald O'Dowd's reorganization proposal as a "broad outline." "There are more questions than answers at this time," she said.

Beeton explained that the

proposal released on October 31 is a framework that will not be filled out until the Board of Regents approves it. Right now generalities are being laid out to be commented on. There will be a consultation with the chancellors later this month, after which O'Dowd will prepare a final proposal to be presented to the Regents.

After Regent approval the real work of developing the details will begin. At that time the logistics of the obligations to students and staff, and the questions of moved management will be determined.

Beeton said, "It is unrealistic to say the University of Alaska will maintain the status quo. We just do not have the

resources to do so."

She said she believes that O'Dowd is sincerely looking for input.

Any comments, objections, praise, alternatives and suggestions for modification could only be of assistance as he prepares his presentation to the Regents.

Beeton encourages students to prepare a response. The two

avenues for input that she outlined were via the student representatives to the UAJ and statewide assembly or direct submission of ideas to Chancellor Visser.

Public Testimony Shows Strong UAJ Support



Frank Wilson/Whalesong



Frank Wilson/Whalesong



Frank Wilson/Whalesong

By DAVID SMITH
Special to the Whalesong

Almost four hundred people turned out Monday night November third for the first of many public hearings on the restructuring of the University of Alaska system.

This hearing was designed to enable UAJ students and the Juneau public to provide testimony to Statewide Administration on their reactions to the announced changes.

After a brief recap by the administration on the future of UAJ, students and the public gave approximately three hours of testimony in an effort to persuade the administration to recall the decision made by President O'Dowd to change the current status of the University of Alaska-Juneau.

The new plan, as proposed by O'Dowd on Oct. 31 calls for a full scale restructuring of the entire University of Alaska system. This plan, according to O'Dowd, is designed to cut administrative overhead and streamline the University structure.

Much of Monday night's testimony was focused on the loss of the graduate programs in fisheries and public administration.

Some of the comments opposing the transfer of the graduate public administration

program to Anchorage varied from "ridiculous" and "absurd" to "outright stupid".

"It does not make any sense to move a program in public administration away from Juneau. After all isn't this where the operation of the state is at? How can they justify depriving a student, faculty member, or administrative personnel of the resources which make a good training ground for public administration majors," commented a member of the Juneau community.

Other areas of concern to students included a proposal to eliminate NCAA athletics from the UA system; the omission of the Vocational/Technical program at the UAJ campus and the future of UA community colleges and outreach programs, all of which many of those who testified felt are essential to the make up of the entire system.

Along with students and the Juneau community, candidates for the local house and senate seats expressed their views and concerns to the UA administration.

All of the candidates testified as to the importance of UAJ, not only for the students, but for the community as a whole. They voiced their opposition to the plan maintaining that the change would be a detriment to the credibility of the University of Alaska.

Plan...

Continued from page 1

more focused college with a regional mission. It would offer high quality programs aligned to the needs of the Juneau community and Southeast Alaska. The cost of the operation would be substantially less than it is today." (taken from the text of O'Dowd's presentation to the statewide assembly at Anchorage Community College on October 31, 1986.)

Smith and several other students from Juneau were in Anchorage for a statewide student leadership conference which was scheduled in concurrence with the university's statewide assembly meeting Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

Accompanying Smith was USUAA Vice President John Patton; Legislative Affairs Coordinator Cynthia Moore; UAJ stu-

dent representative to the Statewide Assembly's student affairs committee, Steve Cole; and David Smith, USUAA secretary/treasurer and coordinator of the United Campuses of Alaska (UCA).

Each of the UAJ student delegates joined the long lines of students, faculty and staff who were armed with a barrage of questions for O'Dowd after his speech.

"What will be the impact on students already in those degree programs that are to be effected?" Cole asked the UAJ president.

Under the reorganization plan, O'Dowd said, students currently enrolled in degree programs slated for elimination or change will be "grandfathered," or allowed to

complete the program if they are full-time students.

New students would not be allowed to enroll in degree programs to be eliminated under the plan, O'Dowd said.

Many students expressed concern that such a plan would ignore the needs of part-time students who would not be able to shift their plans to complete a degree on a full-time basis.

Cole queried the president on the university's obligation to those part-time students.

"The courts have ruled that our obligation is to full-time students only," O'Dowd responded, "we don't have to offer a program indefinitely."

O'Dowd cited figures supporting his argument, stating that a part-time student can take as long as 15 years to complete a

degree program.

Cynthia Moore asked whether the business program would be retained at UAJ, to which the president responded that yes, a business program would be continued, but only at an undergraduate level.

Michael Smith questioned O'Dowd on the continuation of vocational/technical programs and facilities in Juneau, asking whether the building used to house those programs would be abandoned.

"We won't continue that program at Juneau," O'Dowd answered, adding that some classes may be offered, through extension from Anchorage, if there proves to be a continuous enrollment to justify such an offering.

David Smith asked how

O'Dowd intended for UAJ to achieve the goal of a 15:1 student teacher ratio, particularly whether this would entail a reduction in part-time teaching staff and an increase in the teaching load of full-time staff.

"A substantial number" of part-time instructors will be retained, O'Dowd responded.

UAJ's full-time staff can't have the skills, given its size, to offer the range of classes it now does, he added.

After the morning presentation of the restructuring plan, the Juneau students joined approximately 30 other student leaders from across Alaska to discuss the plan's implications to the state as a whole and to the individual campuses.

Duncan: Move "Unreasonable"

By CARYN GOOD
Whalesong Staff Reporter

The University of Alaska-Juneau will not lose all of its graduate programs if Jim Duncan has anything to say about it.

The newly elected State Senator has pledged that he will work hard through the legislature to assure that UAJ will not be stripped of all graduate programs.

"A high number of the educated people in the Juneau public come here for graduate degrees," Duncan stated.

Moving the graduate Public Administration program away from the state capital and the Fisheries program away from the marine environment is "unreasonable," according to Duncan.

Duncan said that in the final analysis all units will have to take a reduction but that it... "must be done equitably."

He concluded, "We must prove we can raise the quality of life in southeast. We must be an undergraduate liberal arts college in the broadest sense of the word."

Beverly Beeton, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, closed by comparing UAJ to UAF and UAA, citing the "most fantastic site, setting and community for a university," and the "extraordinary support from the community."

She noted that we are all in a state of shock, surprised, stunned, angry, and frustrated, "Remember, we have been down comparable tracks before and come through them. We can come through this," Beeton commented.

She said that what is done in the next few weeks is imperative.

"We must remain viable. Don't jump off or we will make the worst case scenario come true. We have come so far, done so much. We're good, don't forget it." Beeton concluded, "Let's make the best case scenario come true."

Questions...

Continued from page 1

that moving to a 15 to 1 student to faculty ratio from the current 10 to 1 was not unreasonable and could still be "favorably compared to universities down south."

He went on to describe the changes to the community college systems. He explained that they may be learning centers, possibly with a local cadre of faculty and extension services offered through the major campuses. Depending upon enrollment both upper and lower division courses would be available via different methods of delivery. Although the overall management of the extension college would be at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, UAJ will be serving as the state college for Southeast.

"It is highly desirable for us to work with Ketchikan and Sitka. We can do a better job of serving the needs of southeastern Alaska," Visser declared.

Visser then opened the floor to questions.

Asked if he had anything

positive to tell the teachers at the JDCC vocational-technical center, Visser responded, "For all practical purposes the community college disappears from Alaska, and all vocational and technical programs will emanate from Anchorage."

Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Baerbel Sorensen, President of the UAJ faculty senate, questioned the emphasis on academics, asking about proposed changes in administration. The response was that a "look and see" attitude would be necessary until the extent of administration needed for Sitka and Ketchikan is known.

Smoker, associate professor of fisheries, asked whether the current School of Fisheries faculty would be required to relocate to Fairbanks, adding that it would be difficult for him to continue his salmon aquaculture research so far inland.

Visser explained that Fisheries was a much more complex issue. As a new discipline, there is some

question that the state might be better served with a natural resources management program. He also noted that the graduate program should be allied with a doctoral program.

When asked about the future of the School of Fisheries he answered, "Grim."

He added that perhaps UAJ will add a Liberal Arts emphasis area in field sciences.

Noting the tenuous state of the graduate programs, a student asked whether UAJ would be accepting applications to the existing programs next semester. Beeton answered that business will continue as usual "until we are instructed by the Board of Regents to do otherwise."

Visser ended with a "pep talk", describing the target areas for increasing enrollment. He specifically identified the 500 to 600 students graduating from high schools throughout southeast Alaska every year and people he referred to as "retreads"--the student who goes south to school, does not succeed, and returns home.

NOTICE

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR
COMMENTS ON
RESTRUCTURING
TO M. SMITH - USUAA
BY WED. NOV. 27TH
OR VAX (JYPRES)